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"MARCH LIKE A SOLDIER, DANCE LIKE A FAIRY"

French Posters from the Blue Triangle Foyers

By CLARE NISSLEY

"FOR Victory. Think Victory—Talk Victory—Believe Victory." The first poster to reach this country of the Congress of Allied Women on War Service, which was held in Paris in August, was brought to New York this month by Miss Irene H. Armes. Miss Armes for the past six months has been hostess at the Y. W. C. A. Hotel Petrograd in Paris and was executive secretary of the Congress.

The Victory poster was drawn by an American artist and spread broadcast through Paris and England by the American Young Women's Christian Association. Late one August afternoon the message came to Miss McMein, the distinguished American artist, that "toute de suite" there must be a poster for the Allied Women's Congress. Miss McMein laid down the palette on which she was mixing blues and greys. Since the same month, four years

preceding, American and French artists in Paris have been continually laying down their palettes in order that they may draw the war brilliantly and suggestively on placards for shop windows, public buildings, the streets of London and Paris. Miss McMein's designing pencil is prolific. It was not slow in catching the spirit of allied womanhood. The request had come to her on Friday. On Monday the posters "For Victory" began to appear on the boulevards of Paris.

The woman whom Miss McMein has portrayed in her soft blacks and whites is begging help from allied sisters whose suffering has been less keen than her own. She is a girl from Belgium or northern France. Her eyes are shadowy from unforgettable memories but her hand is lifted high in the white courage which "Belies Victory."



A Y. W. C. A. FOYER AT A MUNITIONS FACTORY IN FRANCE



A POSTER WHICH INVITES FRENCH GIRLS IN THE Y. W. C. A. TO TAKE A WALK

Twenty-five hundred women, every one in uniform, representing every allied nation now fighting, were present at the Congress, the largest ever held by the women of the warring nations and an assemblage which is exceptional this far in the world's history. Women of France, America, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, Russia, Roumania, Poland, Serbia, Montenegro, the countries of Asia and Africa, the republics of South America were there, delegates from one hundred and eighty organizations. When at the conclusion of the two day sessions, Lord Derby, the British Ambassador to France, who presided, called the roll, there arose in the great assembly hall of the Theatre des Champs-Elysee British, American and French members of the Y. W. C. A., Y. M. C. A., and Red Cross; the Salvation Army representatives; the munition workers of Rouen and Paris; Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Force; motor transport drivers of all countries; all French societies exclusive of nurses; American, French, British, and Italian nurses; the United States Signal Corps, and representatives of dozens of other societies. The Y. W. C. A. was the American organization asked to underwrite the budget for the Congress.

In the absence of David Lloyd George, a message from the British Premier was read by Lord Derby in which he said: "If it had not been for the splendid manner in which the women came forward to work in hospitals, in munition factories, on the land, in administrative offices of all kinds and in the war work behind the lines, often in great danger of their lives, all the Allies, I believe, would have been unable to withstand the enemy attacks during the past few months. For this service to our common cause, humanity owes them unbounded gratitude.

"To their ennobling influence we look not only for strength to win the war, but for inspiration during the great work of re-

construction which we shall have to undertake after victory is won. The women who have flocked to France to work for the Allies are among the foremost leaders of this great movement of regeneration. My message to their representatives gathered in Paris is this: Well done, carry on, for you are helping to create a new earth for yourselves and your children."

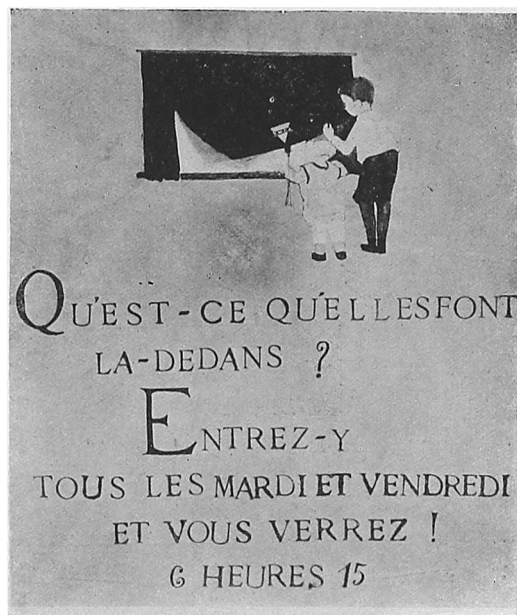
Among additional war posters brought to this country by Miss Armes were ones in which the extensive work of the Young Women's Christian Association among the French girl munition makers is shown. Some of them were drawn by American girl secretaries of the Blue Triangle who overseas have had to add sketching to their list of attainments. Many of them are by French girls whose sense of diagram and design for domestic art objects before the war is now being put to use in the drafting rooms of the munition factories.

The object of the posters in all Blue Triangle foyers is only to attract by a bit of color and suggestion girls who in the evening come to the clubroom for rest and music and games after a twelve hour day in the factory or at a desk in the War Office. A Sunday walk, an evening class in which the munitionette will be taught to make herself a blouse, an English class, a match game of basketball, an orchestra—placards invite and entice the girls to all of these. In an artistic way they recall the French girl to the niceties or the wholesome recreation that were hers before the war.

In conjunction with its war work in this country in which the Y. W. C. A. has housed and provided recreation for the thousands of American girls who have taken the industrial places of drafted men, built Hostess Houses at more than a hundred military camps from Maine to Texas, or filled the needs which the war thrust upon the colored and foreign born, the Blue Triangle organization has conducted a work in France which has won the ap-



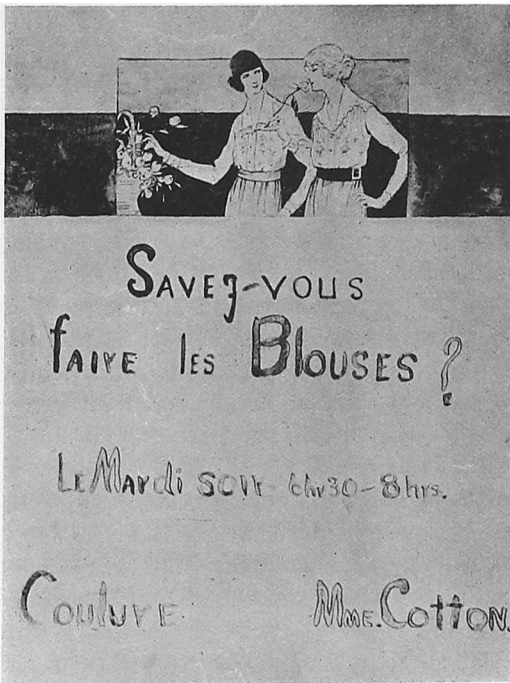
POSTER BY MISS McMEIN, THE AMERICAN ARTIST, WHICH ANNOUNCED THE ALLIED WOMEN'S CONGRESS IN PARIS



"WHAT DO THEY DO IN THERE?"



THE Y. W. C. A. RECREATION PARK AT
TOURS, FRANCE



AN ANNOUNCEMENT POSTER IN A Y. W. C. A.
FOYER IN FRANCE.

proval of both the French and British governments.

In Paris the Hotel Petrograd offers accommodations to American women war workers in France. Two other hotels, one in Paris and the other at Tours, furnish homes for the girls of the United States Signal Corps. At sixteen base hospitals, the "Blue Triangle Hut," as close to the firing line as the doctors and nurses themselves venture, is a rest spot to which the nurses come for a snatch of sleep or a cup of tea in their few minutes off duty. In the middle of the night when the second shift comes off duty in the hospital ward, a secretary at the hut is waiting to give them a cup of hot chocolate.

It is at the Foyer des Allies, however, where the women of the American organization serve directly the women and girls of France. Twelve hours a day at the huge munition plants French girl patriots are turning out shells for the men at the front. At night, worn from the nervous strain of making each spot perfect, they go back to narrow barracks and a sleepless night, unless at a convenient walking distance from the factory, a Blue Triangle foyer coaxes them to its warmth and light and cheeriness. Fifteen such clubrooms are now being operated in Lyon, Bourges, Peysin, St. Etienne, and other French cities. In their attractive, homelike living rooms the working girls find comfortable chairs, writing tables, sewing machines, little luxuries of the homes they knew before the factory. There are moving pictures, entertainments, cozy evenings in front of the big foyer fireplace. A Blue Triangle recreation leader teaches in the gymnasium basketball, gymnastic exercises, Swedish drills, American games and sports entirely foreign to the French. If possible, ground for an outdoor athletic field is secured near the clubroom and the competition of match games given an initial trial.

In Paris at the request of the French

Minister of War, the Y. W. C. A. has opened a seven room foyer for the 17,000 women and girls employed in the war offices. The state furnished the funds and the Y. W. C. A. provides the working material. Near by at Val d'Or two large fields have been secured for use every Saturday afternoon, and on the basketball fields and tennis courts which have been laid out the French girls are getting the outdoor play which keeps them fit for their week's work in the factory.

At Tours an island in the Loire river has been made over by the Y. W. C. A. into a huge playground and picnic field for the thousands of girls at work in the city. On Sundays its tennis courts are crowded and on the "afternoons at home" tea is served in the rustic French garden at one end of the island.

"The meadows are abloom. Come gather the flowers," The Blue Triangle poster invites the girls to the Sunday tramp. But to the girls who in their French heels try to keep pace with the American secretary, the poster has brought them more than an outdoor walk. It has given them the companionship and laughter and flowers which the war with its weariness had almost crowded from their consciousness.

* * *

French Girl War Workers "Play Ball."

A REFEREE'S whistle is a command which the French woman has seldom answered. Along, nevertheless, with the American slang which the American boys are dropping into the Frenchman's vocabulary, the words "Time" and "Foul" and "Score" have been translated into terms which the French sports-women can obey. She is not a sports-woman by profession. She is a French working girl who is learning to play outdoors in order that she may more energetically do her war work outdoors.

For the first time in their lives, working girls in Paris are playing competitive games

at the new athletic and recreation field which has just been opened by the American Young Women's Christian Association. Certain groups of French women, it is true, generally of the leisure class, had already accustomed themselves to handling a tennis racket and a basketball without gloves. Until it was made evident, however, that organized play in the evening and during the rest hour was the only means by which the women and girls who hour after hour cut shells or stitched gas masks or filed reports at the War Office could keep in tone for the next day's repetition of the cutting and the stitching and the filing, the French girl was more apt to spend her leisure time in amusement than in recreation. She watched others entertain her indoors instead of taking physical exercise herself in the open air.

Through the efforts of Miss Laura C. Squire of Claremont, California, who was sent to France by the American Y. W. C. A. to teach the French working girls how to play, with whom M. de Lafrete, the head of the Academia, a Parisian society for sports among French women, co-operated, two large fields were secured at Val d'Or for use every Saturday afternoon until Oct. 1. There in uniforms which are new to them, those of gymnasium suits, the French girls are learning how to catch a basketball without letting it slip through their arms and are serving tennis balls so that they hit hard and precisely. In addition to the two large athletic fields at Val d'Or, a tennis court at Auteuil has been rented for every evening in the week and another adjoining for all day Sunday. A small vacant space next to the courts is also being cleared for use as a tea garden.

At Tours, where thousands of women refugees and girls of the district are working, the Y. W. C. A. has made into a play field an island in the Loire, several acres in size, made shady by giant cotton wood trees. There are picnic spots where the



AMERICAN Y. W. C. A. OUTING FOR THE ENGLISH W. A. A. C.'S ON THE Y. W. C. A. ISLAND AT TOURS

—Photo by F. P. Burke

women can break the monotony of scant lunches hastily eaten at the factory or the barracks, with a Sunday supper out in the open. Here too tennis and other games can be played, and on the "afternoons at home" tea is served in the conventional French garden at one side of the island.

The fields in Paris and the Recreation Island at Tours meet the needs for vigorous outdoor exercise which the routine and war tension claim for the girl patriots. Likewise at the "foyers," the clubhouses on which the sign of the Blue Triangle spells rest to the girl munition makers, play is being taught. It is imperative that the girl who has stooped all day over her bench at the ammunition plant, breathing in the powder and the chemicals, shall have fresh air. When she first begins her work with

the shells and grenades which are to fill the trains sent to the front, it is certain that she will sacrifice her good looks and likely that her good health will go with them. If she has come fresh cheeked from Brittany to do her bit for the cause her skin quickly becomes yellow and stained. If she has come with the chalked or reddened complexion of the Paris dancer, the outcome is identical. At the end of six weeks her skin is scorched. After six months her lungs have been eaten into by the powder, and she knows, as she knew when she volunteered, that the bit which she gives will be herself. Fresh air, exercise, play, are the antidotes with which the gymnasium and the athletic field of the Blue Triangle foyer combat the powder.

The recreation director at the Y. W. C.

A. foyer has a bigger task than only to oversee a clubroom where the girls can relax and visit after work hours. She must furnish something that will take them out of themselves. She must give them such good healthy amusement that they will go back to their barracks and sleep, physically tired out with playing. She must make them laugh. Wig wag, military drills, hikes, picnics, games, American sports, clear the eyes that have stared all day at the piece of work on which their fingers have toughened. Life out of doors makes the girl who fled from Louvain forget that her mother and little sister could not flee with her.

As cold weather crowds the girls from

the outdoor fields into the foyer gymnasiums, it is hoped that apparatus for indoor gymnastics and competitive sports can be secured. The girls are already begging that their play times will not end with the beginning of winter, and it is assured that part of the money which the Y. W. C. A. obtained in its war fund drive will be appropriated for this purpose. Fifteen million dollars of the \$170,500,000 was the allotment of the Y. W. C. A. in the United War Work Campaign, in which the Y. W. C. A. co-operated with the Y. M. C. A., the National Catholic War Council, the Jewish Welfare League, the War Camp Community Service, the American Library Association, and the Salvation Army.



FRENCH GIRLS AT DRILL—Y. W. C. A. RECREATION FIELD, LYON, FRANCE

—Photo by F. P. Burr